

Message Text

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12
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W
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O 061205Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8548
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 16014

EXDIS

VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, GW
SUBJECT: MBFR DATA: TANK FIGURES

REF: (A) BONN 15933, (B) STATE 216222, (C) BONN 15881

BEGIN SUMMARY: COLONELS TANDECKI AND SCHMIDTBAUER FROM
DEFENSE MINISTRY DISARMAMENT DEPT CALLED AT EMBASSY
NOV 6 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF MBFR DATA ISSUE. RESULT
WAS CONFIRMATION OF GERMAN AGREEMENT TO USE NATO AND
WP TANK FIGURES OF 6,000 AND 15,500 RESPECTIVELY
SUBJECT TO UNDERSTANDING THAT THESE FIGURES COVER
ONLY TANKS IN ACTIVE UNITS AND DID NOT TAKE INTO
CONSIDERATION TANKS HELD IN RESERVE OR STORAGE ON BOTH
SIDES. GERMANS ALSO PROVIDED RATIONALE FOR THEIR
FIGURES OF 20,000 WP TANKS IN NGA. ACTION REQUESTED:
GUIDANCE CONCERNING UNDERSTANDING ADVANCED BY FRG REPS
AND AUTHORITY TO INFORM FRG ON US FIGURES CONCERNING
NATO AND WP TANKS HELD IN STORAGE OR RESERVE. END
SUMMARY

1. TANDECKI AND SCHMIDTBAUER CALLED ON EMBOFF NOV 6 AND
READ OFF PREPARED DESCRIPTION OF HOW GERMAN DEFENSE
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MINISTRY HAD ARRIVED AT 20,000 TANK FIGURE FOR WARSAW
PACT. GERMANS NOTED TO&E AGREEMENT (MC224) THAT THERE
ARE 15,500 TANKS ORGANIC TO WP DIVISIONS AND IN SOME-
AGREED ADDITIONAL WP TANK UNITS IN THE NGA. BESIDES

THOSE TO&E DIVISIONS AND ADDITIONAL TANK UNITS, THERE ARE FURTHER ACTIVE UNITS IN SOVIET FORCES IN THE NGA BUT NATO UNTIL NOW HAS NOT AGREED ON HOW MANY TANKS ARE IN THOSE UNITS. DEFENSE MINISTRY BELIEVES THESE ACTIVE SOVIET UNITS HAVE APPROXIMATELY TWO THOUSAND (2,000) TANKS. MOREOVER, THERE ARE RESERVES OF SOVIET FORCES IN THE NGA WHICH IN FACT TAKE THE FORM OF STOCKS; THESE RESERVES ENTAIL 800 ADDITIONAL TANKS. FINALLY, THE GDR, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND POLAND HAVE AN ADDITIONAL EIGHTEEN HUNDRED (1800) TANKS IN STOCKS AND RESERVES IN THE NGA; FOR EXAMPLE, THE SO CALLED MINISTERIAL RESERVES IN THE GDR. THE ABOVE FIGURE OF 4600 TANKS, WHEN ADDED TO THE ACCEPTED BASIC FIGURE OF 15,500 TANKS, BRINGS THE SUM OF 20,100. AS EXAMPLES OF THE ALLEGED 2,000 TANKS IN ADDITIONAL ACTIVE SOVIET UNITS IN THE NGA, THE DEFENSE MINISTRY REPS CITED THREE TANK REGIMENTS IN THE GDR--RESPECTIVELY LOCATED AT GLACHAU, HALBERSTADT AND QEDLINBURG--EACH OF WHICH ACCORDING TO FRG INTELLIGENCE POSSESSES 100 TANKS. THE GERMAN REPS ALSO REFERRED TO THEIR POSITION, FOOTNOTED IN THE MC224 REPORT, THAT THERE IS A THIRD SOVIET DIVISION POSSESSING 300 TANKS IN THE NORTHERN GROUP OF FORCES POLAND. THE DEFENSE MINISTRY REPS SAID THEY WERE PREPARED TO PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE ALLEGED 2000 SOVIET TANKS IN THE NGA.

2. SCHMIDTBAUER THEN SAID THAT THE FRG IS WELL AWARE THAT RESERVE TANKS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOTAL NATO TANK FIGURE OF 6,000. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT THE WP FIGURE OF 15,500 DID NOT INCLUDE HEAVY TANKS, AS DID THE NATO 6,000 FIGURE. ON THIS POINT, DRAWING ON TELCON WITH AMERICAN MBFR DEL, EMBOFF SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE 15,500 AND 6,000 FIGURES REFLECTED THE FACTUAL SITUATION CONCERNING HEAVY AND MEDIUM TANKS AND THAT WP HEAVY TANKS WERE NOT ARTIFICIALLY EXCLUDED FROM THE 15,500 COUNT. SCHMIDTBAUER SAID HE DID NOT WISH TO MAKE A MAJOR POINT OF THIS MATTER BUT
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THAT
HIS INTELLIGENCE SOURCES COUNTED SOME 500 T-10'S.

3. THE GERMANS THEN SAID THAT, IN THE INTEREST OF REACHING A COMMON ALLIANCE POSITION, THE FRG WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT FOR USE WITH THE EAST AND AS NEEDED WITH THE PRESS THE TOTAL NATO AND WARSAW PACT NGA TANK FIGURES OF 6,000 AND 15,500. HOWEVER, THE GERMANS ASKED WHETHER THE FOLLOWING COMMENT COULD BE ADDED FOR USE WITH THE

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8549

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EAST AND IF POSSIBLE VIS-A-VIS THE PRESS. QTE. THESE FIGURES DO NOT INCLUDE THE RESERVES OF ALL KINDS ON BOTH SIDES IN THE NGA. THESE RESERVES ARE CONSIDERABLY HIGHER ON THE WARSAW PACT SIDE THAN ON THE NATO SIDE. WHEN THESE RESERVES ARE ALSO CONSIDERED THE WP/NATO TANK RATIO WOULD BE 3 TO 1. END QTE.

4. IN REPLYING, EMBOFF THANKED TANDECKI AND SCHMIDTBAUER FOR THE FRG AGREEMENT TO THE NATO AND WP FIGURES OF 6,000 AND 15,500. HE SAID USG IS CONSIDERING THE ACTUAL COUNT OF TANKS HELD IN RESERVE OR STORAGE ON BOTH SIDES AND THAT IT MIGHT BE BETTER AT THIS TIME TO AVOID THE GERMAN PROPOSED REFERENCE TO LARGER WP TANK RESERVES OR THE LIKELY RATIO IN VIEW OF TANKS HELD IN RESERVE OR STORAGE. EMBOFF DREW ON DEPT'S GUIDANCE IN COUNTERING DEFMIN PROPOSAL TO CITE SUCH TANK RATIOS. INSTEAD, EMBOFF URGED TANDECKI AND SCHMIDTBAUER TO CONFIRM THEIR AGREEMENT REPORTED IN REF A.

5. FOLLOWING FURTHER DISCUSSION, TANDECKI AND SCHMIDT-BAUER CONFIRMED GERMAN ACCEPTANCE OF TOTAL NATO TANK FIGURE OF 6,000 AND TOTAL WARSAW PACT TANK FIGURE OF 15,500 FOR USE WITH THE EAST IN NEGOTIATIONS AND, AS NEEDED, WITH THE PRESS. THIS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE UNDERSTANDING THAT WESTERN SPOKESMAN WOULD REMARK BOTH
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WITH THE EAST AND IF POSSIBLE VIS-A-VIS THE PRESS THAT THESE FIGURES COVER ONLY TANKS IN ACTIVE UNITS AND DID NOT TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION TANKS HELD IN RESERVE OR STORAGE ON BOTH SIDES. THE GERMANS ADDED THAT THEY WOULD BE GREATLY INTERESTED IN RECEIVING US FIGURES ON WP AND NATO TANKS PRESENTLY HELD IN RESERVE, STORAGE, DEPOTS, ETC.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) GUIDANCE CONCERNING GERMAN
PROPOSED UNDERSTANDING AS REPORTED ABOVE. (B) AUTHORITY
TO INFORM FRG ON CURRENT US THINKING CONCERNING WP AND
NATO TANKS HELD IN STORAGE OR RESERVE.
HILLENBRAND

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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